

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-27, all of the claims set forth in the verified translation of PCT/EP2004/050656. Please add new claims 28-54 as follows:

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (New) A wheel folding apparatus comprising:

a transport cylinder adapted to receive and to transport at least one web of material;

first and second folding rollers associated with said transport cylinder and defining a folding gap;

a first counter cylinder cooperating with said transport cylinder and defining a first cutting gap;

a second counter cylinder cooperating with said transport cylinder and defining a second cutting gap; and

means on said transport cylinder and said first and second counter cylinder to transversely cut said at least one web of material.

29. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein each of said first and second counter cylinders is a cutting cylinder including at least one cutter.

30. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 29 further including stops on said transport cylinder and cooperating with said cutters on said cutting cylinders.

31. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said first counter cylinder and said transport cylinder cooperate to cut a first web of material and said second counter cylinder and said transport cylinder cooperate to cut a second web of material.

32. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said first and second counter cylinders are arranged sequentially on a circumference of said transport cylinder for phase-shifted cutting of said at least one web of material.

33. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 32 wherein a cut performed in said first cutting gap and a cut performed in said second cutting gap are spaced by less than 10 mm.

34. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said first and second counter cylinders are arranged on said transport cylinder offset in a circumferential direction of said transport cylinder.

35. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 29 including a first transport track for a first web of material and extending through said first cutting gap, said first cutting cylinder cutting a first signature of said first web during passage of said first web of material through said first cutting gap, and further including a second transport track for a second web of material, said second transport track meeting said first transport track before said second cutting gap, said second cutting cylinder cutting a second signature off said second web in said second cutting group during passage of said first and

second webs of material through said second cutting gap.

36. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 35 wherein rotation of said first cutting cylinder and said second cutting cylinder are synchronized whereby said second cutting cylinder cutter is received in a cut made in said first web of material made by said first cutting cylinder cutter in said first cutting gap.

37. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 36 further including means on said transport cylinder adapted to separate leading and trailing edges of successive ones of said signatures cut in said first cutting gap from said first web of material.

38. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 37 wherein said separating means include signature leading end holding means adapted to shift said signature leading ends opposite to a signature transport direction prior to passage of said signatures through said second cutting gap.

39. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 38 wherein said separating means further includes a signature leading end holding means adapted to shift said second signature in said transport direction after passage through said second cutting gap.

40. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said transport cylinder includes at least one cutter.

41. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 40 further including at least one stop on each said counter cylinder and adapted to work with said at least one cutter on said transport cylinder.

42. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 40 further including a first transport track of a first web of material to be cut and extending through said first cutting gap, and a second transport track of a second web of material to be cut which meets said first transport track prior to said second cutting gap, both of said first and second transport tracks extending through said second cutting gap.

43. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 including at least a first cutter on said transport cylinder, a stop on said first counter cylinder adapted to cooperate with said at least first cutter to cut a signature off said at least one web of material, a holding device on said transport cylinder to hold said cut signature and at least a first transport track extending around said first counter cylinder and extending through said first cutting gap, said first counter cylinder being rotatable with said transport cylinder, said holding device transporting said cut-off signatures through said first cutting gap.

44. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 43 wherein said holding device is a spur strip.

45. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 44 wherein said spur strip carries a plurality of spur needles and is supported for rotation by a shaft, said spur needles

crossing a circumference of said transport cylinder at a location which is changeable in accordance with a pivot position of said spur strip.

46. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 44 wherein said spur strip supports a plurality of spur needles having needle tips and needle bases and further wherein said spur strip is supported for pivotable movement about a shaft, said spur needle tips being located at a first distance from said shaft, said spur needle bases being located at a second distance from said shaft, said first distance being greater than said second distance.

47. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 37 wherein said means for moving apart said cut edges include radially displaceable segments of said transport cylinder and control means for effecting a radially outward movement of said radially displaceable segments after passage through said second cutting gap.

48. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 37 wherein said means for moving apart said cut edges include a groove on said transport cylinder and a strip on said second cutting cylinder and adapted to cooperate with said groove.

49. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 44 further including at least one spur strip needle receiving groove on said first cutting cylinder.

50. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 42 wherein said first transport track

loops around said first counter cylinder at an entry to said first cutting gap.

51. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 including at least a first cutter on said transport cylinder, a first stop on said first counter cylinder adapted to cooperate with said at least first cutter to cut a signature off said at least one web of material, a first transport path for said at least first web of material and extending through said first cutting gap, a second transport track for a second web of material and meeting said first transport track after said first cutting gap, both said first and second transport tracks extending through said second cutting gap, said second counter cylinder having a second stop, said second stop cooperating with said cutter on said transport cylinder for cutting a second signature of said second web during passage of said cutter through said second cutting gap.

52. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said transport cylinder has at least five transport fields.

53. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 further including a web inlet associated with each said cutting gap.

54. (New) The wheel folding apparatus of claim 28 wherein said transport cylinder is a folding blade cylinder.